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2015-2016**

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Fight Crime: Invest in Kids National Leadership Council

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Bill Perry, Deputy Director



*Hundreds of Police Chiefs, Sheriffs,
Prosecutors, other Law Enforcement
Leaders, and Violence Survivors
Preventing Crime and Violence*

TO: Rep. Amanda Price, Chairperson, House Education Committee
Members, House Education Committee

FROM: K.P. Pelleran, State Director, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Michigan

DATE: June 4, 2015

SUBJECT: SB 103 - EDUCATOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

To help kids succeed and keep Michiganders safe in their communities we urge lawmakers to: invest in literacy training to ensure that kids can read when they leave 3rd grade; ensure that we maintain high student standards for math and English, as well as other courses; and that we have appropriate aligned assessments for students and teacher evaluations.

Though SB 103 has key elements for "educator performance evaluation," we believe that it falls woefully short of creating a statewide standard for teacher expectations and evaluation. It would be strengthened by requiring the following:

- Establishing a clear definition of effective teaching;
- Creating and providing a research based evaluation tool aligned with the definition of effective teaching, curriculum standards, and student growth to evaluate educator performance;
- Requiring that evaluation systems meet specific statewide minimum standards, though individual school districts would be allowed to go beyond the minimum to include even higher standards;
- After two years, include that teacher assessments shall be aligned with a statewide student growth model based on required student assessments aligned with core curriculum; and
- Developing an objective master teacher pathway that sets high standards for master teachers to achieve. This will truly distinguish and credential those teachers to serve as leaders in the field and as mentors for their colleagues.

Education is critical to reducing the number of incarcerated adults and sending young people onward to success and opportunity. Yet, we are missing the mark.

In Michigan:

- Nearly 44,000 adults are incarcerated – only four percent have a high school diploma or GED;
- Taxpayers spend extra funds for developmental math and reading at the community college and university level because students are not proficient in those subjects for college-level work.
- Research by the National Skills Coalition (2014, August) on the skills gap shows that middle skill jobs represent 54 percent of all Michigan jobs, but that only 49 percent of the workers in Michigan have the needed training to perform in these positions. Even police jobs require higher technological capabilities today.

Let's give kids the best chance. Please consider strengthening SB 103 to ensure that we are maximizing the taxpayer investment in public education, that we drive teacher excellence, and that each student is ready to compete when they graduate from high school.

Thank you.

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Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is a membership organization of law enforcement leaders and crime victims under the umbrella non-profit Council for a Strong America